What is claimed is:

1.   A method of clearing transactions on an electronic exchange
comprises;

5   performing a full settlement run after cessation of trading;

               automatically marking-to-market all open positions; and

               determining margin requirements.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining margin

10   requirements determines that a position calls for a cash margin

protocol, the method further comprising:

               sending to subscribers or subscriber depository or

guaranteeing banks debits and/or credits; and

               updating the resulting balances in, each subscriber's

15   account.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining margin

requirements determines that a position calls for an asset based

margin protocol, the method further comprising:

20   disseminating position information but no daily pays or

collects will take place so long as sufficient assets are already

identified.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein marking to market further

25   comprises:

               posting a position for a subscriber to a subscriber trading

account as soon as any portion of an order is filled.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein marking to market further

30   comprises:

determining whether the subscriber has a position at the other side of the market that can result in an offset of the position and the position at the other side of the market.

5   6.   The method of claim 5 wherein marking to market further comprises:

liquidating the trade with any resulting credit or debit identified as a realized gain or loss in the subscriber's trading account.

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7.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining margin reqauiremets further comprises:

recording assets that are delivered to the exchange for satisfying margin.

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8.   The method of claim 1 wherein recording assets further comprises:

determining an equivalent asset value to reflect a capital charge applied to special classes of assets.

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9.   The method of claim 1 wherein recording assets further comprises:

maintaining an asset inventory for each trading account, and indicating whether assets in the trading accoutn are limited to

25   covering a single contract genus or a specific delivery commitment, or can be applied to multiple products.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining an initial margin for each contract species held

30   in a subscriber's trading account.

11.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining a variation margin and applying the variation

margin to the subscriber's trading account.

5   12.   A computer program product residing on a computer readable

medium for clearing transactions on an electronic exchange

comprises instructions for causing a computer to;

perform a full settlement run after cessation of trading;

automatically mark-to-market all open positions; and

10   determine margin requirements for market participants.

13.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein

instructions to determine margin requirements comprise

instrutions to causes a computer to

15   determine that a position calls for a cash margin protocol.

14.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein

instructions to determine margin requirement further comprise

instructions to:

20   send messages that are debits and/or credits to subscribers

or subscriber depository or guaranteeing banks; and

update a resulting balances in each subscriber's account.

15.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein

25   instructions to determine margin requirements further comprise

instructions to:

determines that a position calls for an asset based margin

protocol.

30   16.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein

instructions to determine margin requirements further comprise
instructions to:

disseminating position information but no daily pays or
collects will take place so long as sufficient assets are already

5   identified.

17.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein
instructions to mark to market further comprise instructions to:
post a position for a subscriber to a subscriber trading

10   account as soon as any portion of an order is filled.

18.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein
instructions to mark to market further comprise instructions to:
determine whether the subscriber has a position at the other

15   side of the market that can result in an offset of the position
and the position at the other side of the market.

19.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein
instructions to mark to market further comprise insrtuctions to:

20   liquidate the trade with any resulting credit or debit
identified as a realized gain or loss in the subscriber's trading
account.

20.   A system for clearing transactions on an electronic

25   exchange, comprises:
a computer system that is fed information regarding trades
for traders on behalf of subscribers, current prices for products
traded on the exchange, information regarding margin available in
a trading account and margin requirements for a contract genus;

30   a process that executes on the compute system, comprising:

- 48 -

a computer program product residing on a computer readable medium for clearing transactions on the electronic exchange comprising instructions for causing the computer to:

perform a full settlement run after cessation of trading;

5   automatically mark-to-market all open positions; and

determine margin requirements for market participants.